women demonstrators were detained by Delhi Police under section 65 of the Delhi Police Act, 1978 and were subsequently released.

Modernisation of Metro Police Forces

3991. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) Whether Government are considering a proposal to modernise police force in the metros of all States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to acquire modern and sophisticated equipments for the police force in various State capitals; and

(d) if so, the details of such equipments likely to be purchased during the next two years and the budget earmarked for such equipments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) to (d) 'Police' is a State subject as per the Constitution of India. As such, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to modernise their police forces, including those deployed in Metro cities. However, to supplement the efforts of the State Governments in this regard, the Central Government has been providing financial assistance to the State Governments through the awards of the Finance Commission as well as under the Scheme for Modernisation of State Police Forces. An amount of Rs. 200 crores is available under the Scheme for Modernisation of State Police Forces during the current year 2000-2001. The same amount is proposed to be provided for the next year, *i.e.*, 2001-2002.

The Central Government is also implementing, with effect from the financial year 1997/98, a special scheme for Modernisation of State Police Forces in the North-East under which arms and ammunitions, vehicles and communication and other equipment are provided in kind. The expenditure incurred under this Scheme last year, *i.e.*, during 1999-2000 was Rs. 50.87 crores approximately.

New provisions in Criminal Laws

3992. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Law Commission has recommended incorporation of new provisions in the criminal laws to provide for stringent punishment for the